



Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Falls to 3.7 Percent in October

### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released today by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.0 percent in September to 3.7 percent in October. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 4,130, a result of 3,756 fewer employed and 374 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.8 percent in September to 4.6 percent in October.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate has been slowly but steadily declining since the peak of the pandemic 18 months ago. The state's jobless rate is now at 3.7 percent, slightly lower than pre-pandemic unemployment rate of 3.8 percent in February 2020."

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 12,100 in October to total 1,286,900. Ten major industry sectors posted gains. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,500. Hiring occurred in all subsectors, with transportation-warehousing-utilities adding 2,100 jobs. **Professional and business services** increased 2,500. Gains were split between administrative-support services (+1,400) and professional-scientific-technical services (+1,100). **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,400 jobs, all in food services (+1,600). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,300. Most of the expansions occurred in social assistance (+1,100). Smaller increases were posted in **manufacturing** (+900), **other services** (+900), and **government** (+900).

Compared to October 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 33,400. Growth was reported in nine major industry sectors, with six sectors each adding 3,400 or more jobs. **Professional and business services** posted the largest annual increase, up 8,200 jobs. Hiring occurred in all subsectors, but most of the expansion was in administrative and support services (+5,500). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 7,400, with hiring reported across all subsectors. **Manufacturing** added 7,000 jobs. Expansions in durable goods (+10,000) were offset by declines in nondurable goods (-3,000). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 5,100. Most of the hiring occurred in transportation-warehousing-utilities (+3,400). Notable growth was posted in **other services** (+3,600), **financial activities** (+3,400), and **educational and health services** (+2,100). Jobs in **government** declined 3,000, mostly in local government-educational services (-2,800).

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Oct 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2020	Chg From Sep 2021	Chg From Oct 2020
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,353,559	1,357,689	1,333,366	-4,130	20,193
<b>Employment</b>	1,303,039	1,303,413	1,259,359	-374	43,680
<b>Unemployment</b>	50,520	54,276	74,007	-3,756	-23,487
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7	4.0	5.6	-0.3	-1.9
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	4.6	4.8	6.9	-0.2	-2.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

## ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS, Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	October 2021	September 2021	October 2020	Chg From Sep 2021	Chg From Oct 2020
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1286.9</b>	<b>1274.8</b>	<b>1253.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>33.4</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>220.6</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>214.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.8	58.2	60.0	0.6	-1.2
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.0	33.0	34.6	1.0	-0.6
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>161.8</b>	<b>160.9</b>	<b>154.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Durable Goods	83.4	83.0	73.4	0.4	10.0
Nondurable Goods	78.4	77.9	81.4	0.5	-3.0
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1066.3</b>	<b>1055.7</b>	<b>1038.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>27.6</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>257.1</b>	<b>253.6</b>	<b>252.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>5.1</b>
Wholesale Trade	46.9	46.0	45.6	0.9	1.3
Retail Trade	141.0	140.5	140.6	0.5	0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	69.2	67.1	65.8	2.1	3.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Finance & Insurance	53.3	53.5	50.2	-0.2	3.1
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.9	13.8	13.6	0.1	0.3
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>149.4</b>	<b>146.9</b>	<b>141.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.8	42.7	42.5	1.1	1.3
Management of Companies	35.1	35.1	33.7	0.0	1.4
Administrative & Support Services	70.5	69.1	65.0	1.4	5.5
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>189.6</b>	<b>188.3</b>	<b>187.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Educational Services	17.2	17.0	16.2	0.2	1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.4	171.3	171.3	1.1	1.1
Ambulatory Health Care	60.0	60.8	59.4	-0.8	0.6
Social Assistance	36.4	35.3	36.0	1.1	0.4
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>115.5</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.2	12.3	10.4	-0.1	1.8
Accommodation & Food Services	103.3	101.8	97.7	1.5	5.6
Accommodation Services	10.2	10.3	9.0	-0.1	1.2
Food Services	93.1	91.5	88.7	1.6	4.4
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>206.3</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>209.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-3.0</b>
Federal Government	20.6	20.7	21.6	-0.1	-1.0
State Government	78.2	77.7	77.6	0.5	0.6
State Government, Educational Services	31.8	31.3	30.9	0.5	0.9
State Government, Excluding Education	46.4	46.4	46.7	0.0	-0.3
Local Government	107.5	107.0	110.1	0.5	-2.6
Local Government, Education Services	64.5	63.6	67.3	0.9	-2.8
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.0	43.4	42.8	-0.4	0.2

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 benchmark.

Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.



### **About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:**

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Division of Workforce Services, Office of Skills Development, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission and Development Finance Authority. It was established July 2019 as part of Governor Asa Hutchinson's wide-sweeping efficiency and transformation efforts to reduce 42 cabinet agencies to 15 while maintaining services for all Arkansans.



### **About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services**

The mission of the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services is to support and secure Arkansas' economic vitality through a highly skilled workforce by administering programs and providing services that empower employers and jobseekers. ADWS is a division of the Arkansas Department of Commerce.



### **About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

### **About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

### **About Current Employment Statistics (CES)**

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.